

Relative to oyster tags, prior law required the tags to contain information required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Plan Manual of Operations. New law changes reference to the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish.

Prior law provided that a reasonable tolerance of 10% shall be allowed for loss of tags due to transit and handling. New law provides that possession of untagged sacks or containers less than 10% shall be a class one violation punishable as follows:

1st offense	\$50
2nd offense	\$100
3rd +	\$200

New law further provides that possession of untagged sacks or containers in excess of 10% shall be a class three violation punishable as follows:

1st offense	\$250 - \$500	or	imprisonment not more than 90 days, or both
2nd offense	\$500 - \$800	&	imprisonment between 60 and 90 days, and forfeiture
3rd +	\$750 - \$1000	&	imprisonment between 90 and 120 days, and forfeiture

New law limits the oysters which may be confiscated to those which are improperly tagged or are untagged.

Existing law provides that untagged containers of oysters shall be deemed to have been taken from polluted waters and constitute a health hazard. New law adds that improperly tagged containers will also be deemed to have been taken from polluted waters and constitute a health hazard.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Amends R.S. 56:449(A), (C), (E), and (G))